

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

02-277

Mr. Jonathan S. Adelstein,
Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
January 15, 2003,

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APR 15 2003

Dear Mr. Adelstein,

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

I am writing to you in order to respond to your speech given on January 6, 2003 at the Future of Music Coalition Summit.

First, I would like to say that your speech was obviously an impassioned one, and I could derive that you are extremely dedicated to the issues that you covered in your speech.

Secondly, I would like to extend my best wishes to you in your new position. As commissioner of the FCC, you have a great deal of power, and the decisions made under your jurisdiction will have a great impact on the average person, such as myself.

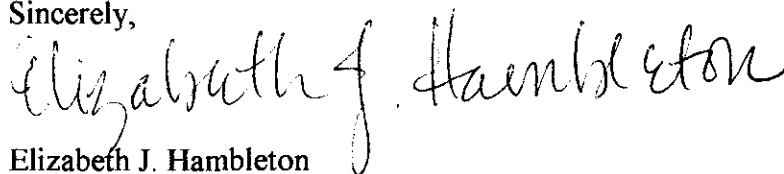
Finally, I was deeply moved by your call to the general public to make our feelings and opinions known on the topics covered in your speech. In order to put fair regulatory practices into place, I concur that many different voices must be heard before any final decisions are made.

One issue that particularly caught my eye was the issue of individual companies gaining too much control over what we see, hear and read. This is an issue that is not only very timely, but one that concerns me greatly. As you mentioned in your speech, diversity in ideas is one of the cornerstones of democracy. It seems to me that I hear fewer and fewer ideas in all three arenas of television, radio and print. America is a very diverse and rich nation, but we are only as diverse as our exposure to diversity. Radio ownership is one issue I do hope that you tackle.

Another issue that you touched on in your speech was the ability of new artists to be able to break into the competitive business of music. This issue is a throwback to the aforementioned issue of diversity. From my many travels in Europe, I have seen a completely different take on the music industry. The level of exposure to different artists and different genres of music on Italian MTV for example, puts American MTV to shame. I hope that dialogue can begin in regards to this subject.

I wish you the best of luck, and will be eagerly watching the progress that you and the FCC make in regards to the many issues that the commission is facing.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth J. Hambleton

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Jan. 22, 2003

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Dear Commissioner Adelstein,

APR 15 2003

Students who are researching mass media from a sociological perspective have written to support your recent call for more diversity in radio and music. While reading your remarks, we noted your request for input from the public and responded. Please enter our letters as a part of the public record, if you deem it appropriate.

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

From a communication perspective, we also study the role of feedback in media and regulatory systems. In that respect, we'd like to ask a couple of questions:

1. Do you receive much feedback from the public and, if so, how much influence does it have on the Federal Communication Commission?
2. Is there a majority of commissioners who support the steps you advocate to increase diversity in musical content?

You can respond to us via our professor's email: lewis@oakland.edu

Or by writing:

Professor Mike Lewis
316 Wilson Hall
Oakland University
Rochester Hills, MI 48309-4496

We appreciate your service to the public. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely

The students of COM/SOC 373 Social Control of Mass Media

Anaera J. Zak
Melissa A. Janni
George King
Robert Ford
Anthony Taylor
Jessica Blanch
Kathryn Stout
Alan Katz
E.M. Smae
Kiff Hilli
Ageliki MChonias
Samara Boutros
Sharon Vazzato
Clyde H. King
Joe Savasino
Joe Skarman
Ch. Wei
Cassie Mann
Theresa Lewis
Kathleen Battistelli
Kurt Garmicki
Kim Moore
Christine Rashed

Camille Ferre
Jennifer Cole
Elizabeth Hamblen
Dorothy N. Helling
Lisa Evans
Candace Seale
Stephen D. Vineyard Jr.
Fahad Ali
Khalilah McCarty
Thomas J. Underhill
Yip Bai
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January 15, 2003

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FCC

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JAN 15 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing this letter on behalf of an article on the FCC website that I had read posted on January 6, 2003. The article was about regulations on radio stations and the types of music that they are allowed to play. I am opposed to the current regulations because of my concern for underground and local artists. The FCC's regulations appear to great, but for whom? Mainstream and popular artists are the ones who will benefit from this recent decision. Reason being is because they are the ones who will have the airplay and are radio friendly. But, if this is supposed to be the land in which there is freedom of speech (within reason), I feel that the underground songs should be able to get airtime. Another problem is the fact that a lot of the major cities' local artists are not given a chance in their own respective cities. I feel that local radio stations should be able to showcase their own talent and if the artist's song makes it in their town, then it (their song) should be played everywhere and compete nationally. That way, there is a healthy variety of songs from every genre and every age group can have something to grasp and listen to.

Respectfully,

Carrie B. Marr

Carrie B. Marr

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To Commissioner,

Jonathan Adealstein of the FCC.

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Hello Commissioner My name is Stephen G. Vineyard Jr. I'm a junior here at the Oakland University in Rochester Hills, MI. I was reading your article on music, and how the many radio stations had most of the same owners, and I said to myself this was not fair at all. I talked about this in my Sociology class 373 Social Control in the Mass Media. The article affects me because I have friend s that are locate acts in Dayton, Ohio and they don't get any air time. How can you go about regulating music more? Every station plays the same stuff. I would love to hear someone else music for a change.

Your words made me see how important this topic is and I hope in the future we have more people who care about the world's talent artist. I think the small groups in the smaller towns cities should be looked at as well.

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Dear,

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Mr. Adelstein

APR 15 2003

I agree with you 100% on your approach towards the FCC. There should not be a consolidation of any type of media. There should be a wide variety of stations and music one individual should listen too. One question I want to ask you is what do you think about having your on radio show and express your point of view on air so everyone could listen to it? I think that would be a good idea.

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Yours truly,

Clifton McCoy

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Dear Mr. Adelstein,

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

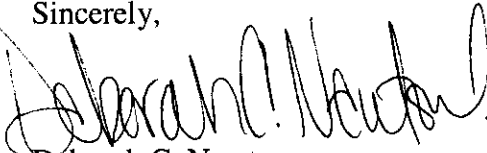
I wanted to write and say that I absolutely love your speech given on January 03, 2003. Not only did I find it extremely informational and interesting, I also thought it was quite entertaining as well. I think it is great that you are so into the music industry, being a musician yourself, because I feel that it is valuable in decision making with in the FCC.

As a college student in my mid-twenties, I find I like the idea of competition with in the music industry. I like the idea of competition with the radio because it seems to make it that much more interesting as a listener. Granted, everyone in the world wants to make a buck (\$), it makes the world go round; but can't those who don't agree appreciate and understand our rights especially those to the artists themselves.

Thank you so much for being so enthusiastic about something you know and love, there is not that many of us left in this world. I am also very happy to hear that you have tons of great ideas and an open mind that encourages students (and others) to write and give ideas to help you and your fabulous cause.

Keep up the awesome work!!

Sincerely,



Deborah C. Newton

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Dear Commissioner Adelstein:

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

My name Joseph Skowronek and I am currently a communication student at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. Recently in my social control of mass media class we were assigned to read your speech that you made on January 6th at Georgetown University. Besides being a student, I also play a band so new laws and regulations that the FCC pass not only affect me as consumer but also as a struggling musician.

I have to say that I agree with a lot of the ideas that you have for the future. I feel that with you being a musician that you understand what local bands are going through better than most members of the FCC. The first point I would like to comment on is the part of your speech on the challenge of new technologies. This really concerns me as a musician trying to make a profit. Many consumers download free music off of the internet everyday. It is not unheard of for people to download complete albums off of these free websites. I understand that for national acts this is not a problem because most of their profit comes from ticket sales. This is a huge problem for local bands because most of these bands lose money from touring. I really don't know what can be done about this problem because even before there was CD burners or free websites to download music people would copy tapes. My only suggestion would be to put chips in CD's so they couldn't be copied. That would eliminate people burning CD's but the problem of downloading music would continue.

My other concern is a about copyrights. You said in your speech that the FCC doesn't enforce the copyright laws. I think we need establish laws to limit the free music that can be downloaded. The main problem is that at this day and age many people feel that there is no reason to leave your house to by a CD when it can be found in the comfort of your own home.

Thank you for listening to my thoughts on these matters. I hope you will take my suggestions into consideration when dealing with the FCC.

Sincerely,



Joseph Skowronek
Fellow Musician

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Commissioner Adelstein;

I am writing to you in response to your speech, "The Last DJ?: Finding a Voice on Media Ownership." It certainly stirred some thoughts which prompted me to take up on your offer for comments.

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It's no secret, what makes this country so great is diversity. From the various types of people to the towns they live in and the philosophies and lifestyles they follow, it's the introduction to something new that makes living in the United States so fascinating. The same applies to our music.

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

I've found that the typical response these days when you ask someone what kind of music they listen to, most people will respond with, "I listen to all types of music." We live in a time when people of all ages will have a music collection that is diverse and eclectic; rap, rock, alternative, jazz, blues, reggae, classical – the list goes on and on of all the different types that cross into the mainstream of peoples lives and into their stereo's. Maybe a song was heard in a movie, or a television commercial prompting listeners to go out and buy a CD they might not have bought otherwise. But I believe an even greater contributing factor is diversity in radio stations and the formats they play.

I live in metro Detroit, and I've noticed over the past 10 or so years more stations playing the same songs – sometimes the same song will even be playing on two or three stations at the exact same time. But there are still a few stations that seem to play music out of the norm and introducing new and different artists. Of course the station that comes to mind as doing this the most is 88.7 CIMX – out of Windsor, Ontario, Canada, which may have something to do with it not being as "cookie cutter" as the other local stations.

I don't pretend to have an easy or immediate solution as to how to combat this trend, but I felt it was important to let you know that people are indeed concerned about this problem. I appreciate as a music listener that you are looking to the American people for input and will certainly be following this situation to see where it leads in the future.

Sincerely,



Thomas Vanderbilt

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To: Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein,

APR 15 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Hello, my name is Khalilah McCarty; I am senior at Oakland University. In one of my communication classes, our assignment was to reflect on your speech given at Georgetown University, Washington DC. We retrieved the information from the web. I was really inspired by your thoughts on diversity on the airwaves. I agree that there need to be diversity on the airwaves in order to keep a competitive market and to also satisfy the diverse community in which we live. I really appreciate the Federal Communications Commission looking out for the best interest of the public's right to hear and respond to creativity, diversity, entertainment, and local information that is provided over all broadcasting systems. Thank you for encouraging the public to get involved and share our thoughts on the issues. It is a great feeling to know that the FCC is working for the public. Good luck in your music career and continue to serve as a voice for the community on the FCC board.

Sincerely,

Khalilah A. McCarty

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

02-277

Jeff Galecki
801 Dartford Place
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

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January 14, 2003

APR 15 2003

Dear Mr. Adelstein,

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Step one, move in and unpack office. Step two, save mass media. The first item on your agenda should be completed; the latter will no doubt be harder as well as longer. But there is only one item on the list that is truly important. By saving mass media and giving it back to those whose agenda does not consist solely of money and profit making, is the ultimate goal. Mass media should be controlled by those that would like to report and engage in a truly "free press".

Mass media is now controlled by conglomerates that parallel that of drug cartels. Why are many markets dominated by one or two companies that usually are not located within that market? It is very disturbing to see all the stations and newspapers printing the same stories, where is diversity of voice and opinion in our country? How is it that Mickey Mouse and Blockbuster get to control massive portions of media content when local voices are left with nothing?

The FCC needs to totally redesign the system in accordance with the current changes in mass media and technology that has happened. Incorporated in these changes should be groups that represent a cross section of the populace; not those living in the three largest cities, or that have the best demographic. Many great things have happened in this country due to the dialog of conflicting opinions, this tradition needs to be revisited by having those opposed to current mass media means and those for mass media to come together via the FCC.

American media used to be great; uncovering those unpopular opinions that otherwise would never be brought to light, spurring political action or supporting and communicating new and fresh ideas. At the end of your term I hope you can say that this is true again, that media is actually controlled by those most responsible. That you have in turn saved the medium that once facilitated a "free" exchange of ideas, not one that prepackages them to maximize profits for a global media cartel. I know the top six agenda items that Viacom, Disney, and Ted Turner want to cross off their list this year: generate profits. Will you be able to cross off step two on your agenda?

Sincerely,



Jeff Galecki

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APR 15 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Commissioner Adelstein,

I am writing you in regards to your remarks concerning media ownership. I wanted to inform you that I completely agree with you about the diversity problem within radio broadcasting. I was a radio listener in Detroit, Michigan and in my opinion there are not enough local bands being played on the radio and the same songs are always on. I don't listen to the radio hardly ever anymore due to this fact. I don't think it is fair for the bands in local communities not to have the opportunity to hear their music on the radio because only certain songs are allowed to be played. Local bands are just as part of the music industry as is Jennifer Lopez and Eminem. Why are they not given the chance for music listeners to hear their music too. I like to hear other new artists more than hearing the same ten songs over and over again like a broken record.

I hope this lets all the important people know that I am sick of listening to the radio and until something changes, I probably won't listen to it until then. I hope you will take my opinions and all the other opinions you receive into consideration for the future. Thank you for your time.

Jessica Blancke

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Dear Commissioner Adelstein,

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

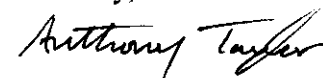
I have written this letter in response to your remarks on the future of music, in which you encouraged the American public to voice their opinions. I first want to say how pleasing it was to learn the importance of the American public's opinion in the shaping of the FCC's decision making. As a former musician myself, it was also rewarding to hear that you to have passion for music.

With that said, I would like to state some comments and concerns that developed after reading your remarks. You described media ownership as a mighty challenge and I couldn't agree more. I feel that the most important goal for the FCC is to prevent large corporations from owning an over abundance of radio stations. Unfortunately, I feel that this has already begun to take shape. There are far too many radio stations promoting the same musicians and giving airtime to the same songs.

The localism of radio stations has also begun to fade and I feel that it is of the utmost importance to preserve that. Radio should be a medium that allows for a vast array of opinions and viewpoints, not one controlled voice. Radio stations should be encouraged to play and promote local musicians. Most of all, radio stations need the freedom to let their music and voices be heard without the controlled hand of corporate America.

After reading your remarks I was as agitated as I was calmed. While I have noticed the change in radio of the years I didn't realize the effects that this change could have on the overall format. Your remarks brought into light the seriousness of this issue and I feel confident that the plans you are working on will ensure that this problem doesn't worsen. It is a calming notion to know that the FCC has someone with a passion for music working for them.

Sincerely,


Anthony TaylorNo. of Copies rec'd _____
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APR 15 2003

January 16th 2003.

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Mr. Adelstein,

After reading your article on "The Last DJ?" I became a concerned citizen. I was unaware of the struggle that small town radio stations were dealing with. I know for me personally, I have given up listening to the radio because I get sick of listening to the same ten songs over and over again every hour. I have resorted to downloading music off the internet, that at least allows me the opportunity to get variety. That idea was a bust when it became apparent to me that doing so could be classified as theft.

After the Napster incident in 2000 I had an idea that the music they were distributing was all copyrighted. What I didn't know, was the new program that I downloaded to get free music from, was doing the exact same thing just not getting busted for it. Now that I am aware of the theft that is going on, I like to think that I am going to become a more considerate citizen to the people who's only income is what they are making by the music that they have recorded.

I am by no means a musician, but I have a few friends who are in bands and I want them to be able to succeed in life one day with their music. By having local DJ's in every town, it gives my friends and other budding artists one more chance to make it. I hope that you, at the FCC can stop the few large companies from owning all the radio stations in one town, and allow more variety to come back into our local radio stations. Then I, as a consumer of music, can find new music that I like, and go out and support these artists by purchasing their music instead of stealing it!

Thank you,

Kim Moore

Kimberley Moore

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02-277

Andrea Muehlhoff
COM 373
T-Th. 3:00-4:47
Professor Lewis
January 16, 2003

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APR 15 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein,

After reading your speech January 6, 2003 at "The Future of Music Coalition Policy Summit 2003 in Georgetown University, Washington DC," I felt the need to write you. At the end of your speech you asked for feedback. Normally I do not like to express my feelings, but music is my passion and I think the radio is not what it should be. First, I do not agree with the 1996 Telecommunications Act that allowed more radio stations in fewer hands. I think we need more diverse radio stations. It seems as if the majority of the stations play the same songs and artists. Although I do not agree with this, my main concern has to do with the radio play lists. I do not like turning on the radio and hearing the same song on one radio station every hour. The radio stations are claiming to play what is requested, but I know that people do not request the songs they are playing. Everyone I know is sick of the same songs, so why would anyone request them when you know it will be played again within the hour. I am a dancer and a musician, so music is my life. I love hearing new songs. The first time I hear a song, I usually fall in love with it. I will run out and buy the c.d. A week later, I am sick of that song that I bought the c.d. for because it is over played on the radio. Once I buy the c.d., I skip over the song they play on the radio. I also feel that radio stations need to play old songs. For example, the radio station will play Nelly's new song, but they will not play any of his old songs. I think the radio stations play list needs to have a variety of music, not just the newest hits, but old songs as well. The play list needs to contain more artists, not the same artist being played all of the time. This is my opinion and I appreciate you taking the time to read this, thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Andrea Muehlhoff

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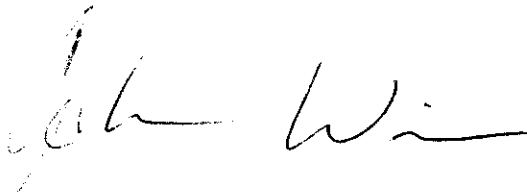
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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Jonathan Adelstein,

Hi my name is Cydne Wines and I currently am a junior attending Oakland University in Rochester, MI majoring in communications. Last week in my Social Control of the Mass Media class we read your speech from the Future of Music Coalition Policy Summit 2003 and we were assigned to write our thoughts on the issue as well as how the issue affected us. While reading your speech I found myself feeling unsettled with the idea of owners trying to make, what seemed to be, little nationwide monopolies within the radio industry after the 1996 Telecommunications Act was passed. I think that media in general is already becoming too narrow and to find out that radio station owners are now owning so many stations it's unbelievable. No wonder I hear mainstream artists like Eminem, Nelly, and N'Sync on about five different stations at the same time. I feel that it is time for the FCC to step in and try to regulate radio station ownership not so much by numbers but by genres and size. For instance, the Act said that an owner could own up to eight stations and you discussed the small town that didn't even have eight radio stations, how fair is that? In small towns like that there should be exceptions to the rule, that is why I feel that each area based on size and genres of music played should have its' own set of rules or guidelines to go by. I believe that with this fair share type system not only would listeners benefit but owners and artists would as well.

Thanks for reading my opinion,



Cydne Wines

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January 16, 2003

02-277

Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Federal Communication Commission

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Dear Commissioner Adelstein:

APR 15 2003

I am writing to voice my opinion on your January 6, 2003 remarks to "The Last DJ?: Finding a Voice on Media ownership". I am a student at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan and we are studying your remarks as part of a university class assignment. I was very impressed that you came across as a likeable individual who the people can communicate with. It helped to know that you are a band member and therefore have a personal interest in what happens in the future of music mediums.

In your remarks you made reference to the 1996 law on radio ownership. The consolidation of radio stations may potentially eliminate the local voice on issues that affect our communities while silencing local up and coming musicians. Local radio is one of the only places where a consumer can hear new, fresh musicians from their own area. There is nothing that can compare to local radio host who have their roots in the community and the means to spotlight the issues that exists in our neighborhoods. Local radio, gives local jobs to local celebrates, which enhance the overall economy, attitude and attributes of a community.

One of my greatest fears is that the people with the most money, power and notoriety will have total ownership of radio. By increasing the number of stations that one business can own, it increases the likelihood that large companies can gain a monopoly on radio ownership. This also takes away from the amount of stations that small owners will be able to buy. The small business owner is a very valuable asset to the business community.

We need diversified radio that speaks to the public. I want to hear a variety of music, news and agendas. Local issues and talent are what really capture the spirit of America's communities. I sincerely hope that radio consolidation does not get out of control and that there will always be a diverse display of radio broadcasts. I truly appreciate you taking the time to hear the publics voice on the important issues in communication.

Sincerely,

Danielle N. Holloway
23600 Coventry Woods
Southfield, MI. 48034

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